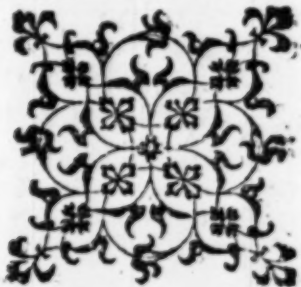
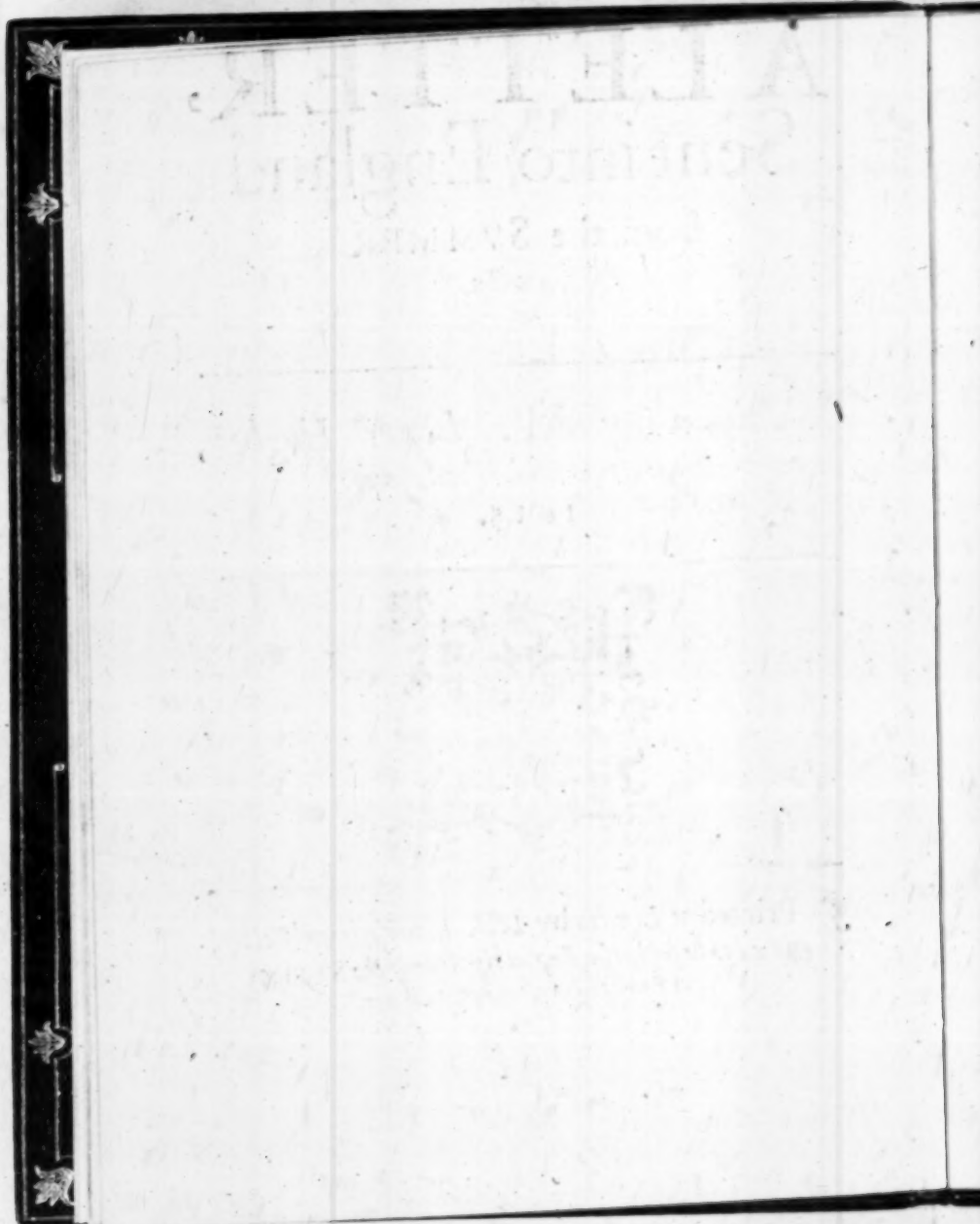


A LETTER, Sent into England from the SUMMER ISLANDS.

Written by M^r. *Lewes Hughes*,
Preacher of Gods Word there.
1615.



J Printed at London by I.B. for William Welby,
and are to be sold at his shop at the signe of the Swanne
in Pauls Church-yard, 1615.





The coppie of a Letter written by
Lewes Hughes, Preacher of Gods Word
in the *Summer Ilands*, to his friends
in *England*.



Eloued friends, the goodnes of Almighty God, in keeping these Ilands secret, from all people of the world (except some that haue come hither against their willes, to their losse, by meanes of shipwrack) till now that it hath pleased his holy Maiesty, to discover and bestow them vpon his people of *England*; is so great as should stirre them vp with thankfull hearts, to praise his holy and great name, and to send such to inhabit them as feare God, and giue themselves to serue him in holinesse and righteousnesse, that so, God may loue to dwell in those Ilands, as hee did in *Sion*, when he said, *This is my rest for euer, here will I dwell: for I haue a delight therein. Psal. 132. 13. 14.* And whereas it is giuen out by some, that wee doe

The Coppie of a Letter, ſent

wrong to the King of *Spaine*; they that thinke ſo, are in an errour: For the King of *Spaine* had neuer any thing to doe heere, and I hope neuer ſhall. The King of kings hath kept theſe Ilands from the King of *Spaine* and all other kings in the world; till now, that it hath pleaſed his holy Maieſty. to beſtow them vpon the King of *England*, and hath put vs his ſubjects in quiet poſſeſſion of them, without doing any wrong to the King of *Spaine*, or any other: and our hope is that if the Spaniards ſhall come to inuade vs, that God will not ſuffer them to take that from vs, that he hath freely giuen vs.

It may be that ſome are afraid to com hither, becauſe of the ſtrange reports that haue gone of theſe Ilands; as that they are the Ilands of diuels, and that heere are ſtrange apparitions of diuels, and fearefull thundering and lightening, as though Heauen and earth did meete together: beleeue me my beloued, here are no ſuch things (thankes be to God). True it is, that as almighty God did ſet the Cherubims, and the blade of a ſword ſhaking in fearefull manner to keepe *Adam* from comming into *Paradiſe*: ſo by fearefull tempeſts, and terrible lightning and thunder, God hath terrified and kept all people of the world from comming into theſe Ilands to inhabit them, as appeareth by diuerſe ſignes of ſhipwrack, in diuers places about the Ilands; and this, as I take it, is the cauſe that ſuch reports haue gone of theſe Ilands; and that all Navigators and Mariners haue been carefull to auoid and ſhunne them, as they would ſhunne the diuell himſelfe: but now, ſince it hath pleaſed God, to diſcouer them vnto, and to beſtow them vpon his
pro:

from Summer Islands.

people of *England*, heere haue been no such tempests nor danger, his holy and great name bee therefore praised. And the more to stirre you vp to praise his holy name: consider, I pray you of the manner how he brought our men to the first sight and true knowledge of them.

He did not bring them to their losse and griefe, by shipwrack as he did others, but to their great ioy, in sauing them from shipwrack: for our men were in danger of shipwrack, three daies before they came to the sight of those Islands: I meane our men that were bound for *Virginia*, in a Ship called the *Sea-venture*, with *S^r. Thomas Gates*, *S^r. George Summers*, and *Captaine Newport*, had their ship so shaken and torn with a cruell tempest, as she receiued so much water as couered two tire of Hogheads, aboue the ballast, so as men stood vp to the middles with buckets and kettles to baile out water, & continually pumped for three daies and three nights together, the water notwithstanding increasing vpon them, and they so tired and out of hope, as they resolued to shut vp the Hatches, and commit themselues to the mercy of God. Some of them that had comfortable waters fetcht them out, and dranke one to an other, taking their last leaue one of an other, vntill their more ioyfull and happy meeting in Heauen.

Then *Sir George Summers* sitting vpon the poope of the shippe, where he sat three daies and three nights without meat, couming the ship to keepe her as vp-right as he could, did descry land, and called vpon the people to follow their pumping and bailing out of water, which they did, the water still increasing

The Coppie of a Letter, sent

sing, and the ship ready to sinke into the bottome of the Sea.

Then Almighty God, who is alwaies at hand ready to helpe in time of neede, did shew his mercy and power, in causing the Sea to be calme, and in keeping the shippe from sinking, and in leading her safely to a safe place, where he lodged her fast, betweene two rockes, so fast as shee could not stirre: then the people with ioyfull hearts, praising God went safely to shore, and saued much of their goods, and continued about nine moneths, very comfortably, notwithstanding that their prouision of meate, was spoiled with the salt water, God did feede them plenteously with Hogges, Fish, Fowles, and other his good creatures, and did multiplie them: for, in that time, there were two children borne and baptized; the one which was a boy they called *Barmudas*, the other which was a girle they called *Barmuda*. Also they builded them a shippe which they called the *Deliuerance*, and a Pinne which they called the *Patience*, and so departed from these Ilands safely and comfortably on the tenth of *May* 1610. with good store of Hogges flesh poudred, to carry with them to *Virginia*.

The eleauenth of *July* 1612. Master *Richard Moore* now Deputy Gouvernour, arriued safely, and with him about 50. soules, men, weomen, and children, to inhabite these Ilands, and since that time (by the mercy of God) diuers other shippes out of *England* haue arriued safely with good supplies: therefore let not the report that hath gone of these Ilands discourage any of the people of *England* from comming hither.

Neither

Neither let the feare of forraine inuasion discourageanie. For; as I am perswaded, and haue heard Marriners, that haue trauelled farre say, the like Islands are not to be found in the world, where men may dwell so safe from forraine inuasion, because God hath so compassed them about with fearefull rockes, as shippes are not able to come neere, but in two Channels, that leade into two goodly and large harbours; the one at a place called the *Gurnats head*, the other at a place called *Danies Point*.

The Channels are so narrow and curious, as ships must come in very leasurely, one after another, so as the forts on both sides the channels may sinke them with ease, by the helpe of God.

As it hath pleased God, (for the safety of those Islands) in their first creation, to inuiron them about with fearefull rocks: so now in their first plantation, it hath pleased his holy maiesty, to put into the heart of *M^r Moore*, now deputy Gouverneur, to fortifie them within, so as in the iudgement of man, they are innincible.

At the *Gurnats head* he hath built three forts, and planted them with great peeces, and men to defend them; and at *Danies Point* he hath builded two forts, and planted them with great peeces and men to defend them. He hath also built diuers other forts to keepe long boates from landing, and to cleer the harbours, if ships should come in.

If long boates should venture to land any there, they will be but as men cast away, because ships can not come neere to rescue or helpe any wale: therefore

let not feare of forraigne inuasion, keepe any from
comming hither.

There is great hope that (by the blessing of God)
men may in time liue very comfortably heere, and
grow rich if they will prouide seedes of Indico, &c.
and plants of currants, figges, raisons, mulberry-trees
for the silk-worms, & vines, that they may haue wine
for their owne drinking: I say for their owne drink-
ing, because wine considering the leakage, trouble,
and charge will be one of the least commodities these
Ilands will asoord.

For the present, Tobacco is the best commodi-
tie.

And for victuals, if men haue boates, nets, lines,
hookes, and striking irons, they may haue good fish
at all times; as *Rock-fish*, *Angell-fish*, *Hogge-fish*, *Amber-
fish*, *Catle-fish*, *Pilat-fish*, *Hedgehog-fish*, *Cunny-fish*, *Old-
wines*, *Singraies*, *Snappers*, *Groopers*, *Cauallies*, *Mor-
raies*, *Mullets*, *Mackerels*, *Pilchers*, *Breames*, *Lobsters*,
Turtles, *sbrkes*, &c.

Also heere are *Ecles* in fresh water ponds. Riuers
here are none, but ponds and welles of very good
and hollsome water, and a water descending from an
hill, wh ch floweth and ebberth with the Sea, and
yet drinketh alwaies sweete, like milke.

Here is also plenty of Sea-foules, at one time of
the yeere; as about the middle of *October*: Birds
which wee call *Cahouze*, and *Pimlico* come in.

The *Cahouze* continue til the beginning of *June* in
great abundance; they are bigger bodied then a *Pige-
on*, & of a very firm & good flesh. They are taken with
ease, if one doe but sit downe in a darke night, and
make

Young Summer 24
make a noise, there will more come to him then hee
shall be able to kill: some haue told mee that they
haue taken twelue and fowerteene dozen in an how-
er.

When the *Cakouze* time is out, other birds cal-
led *Noddies*, and *Sandie birds* come in, and conti-
nue till the latter end of *August*.

Here is no kinde of beasts but hogges and catres,
& they but in one or two places, which are thought
to come at first by meanes of shippe-wrack. The
Hogges were manie, but now are brought to a small
number.

The Calues and Lambes that we brought out of
England, did prosper exceedingly, till the hunters met
with them.

The Cocks and Hennes wee brought with vs, doe
prosper and increase much, and are a great comfort
vnto vs.

And now that we haue found out the right seasons
of the yeere to set Corne, we are like (by the blessing
of God) to haue plenty of this countrey wheate,
which is very good, large and faire, and more hear-
ty and strong then our English wheate.

Young children doe thrive and grow vp exceeding
well, the climate is so temperate and agreeable to
our English constitutions.

The Aire is very holosome, and not subiect to such
contagious infectiones as it is in *England*.

The longest day in the yeere is fowerteene how-
ers, and the shortest tenne from sun to sun. When
it is noone in *England*, it is about eight of the clock in
the morning with vs.

The seasons of the yeere are two; a hot season, that
beginneth about the middle of *Maie*, and continueth
till the middest of *August*: all the rest of the yeere is
as a continuall spring.

The heate of Summer is not so extreame, but it
may be well endured.

Fresh gales of Wind we haue every daie.

The greatest annoiance are flies, for two moneths
and a halfe: they are almost as busie in *England*.

Long and drizzling raine is seldome seene, but
great showers with great droppes very often.

Thunder and lightning, do no such hurt here as in
England.

Snow, haile, frost, thick and foggie mistes we haue
none.

The night is lighter and more comfortable heere
then in *England*.

The birds make a noise almost all night, but now
with such pleasant tunes as the *Larkes*, and other
birds doe in *England*.

Heere is no bird that singeth in the daie but the
sparrow, the Robin-red-breast, & the Robin-williams.

The earth is very fertile, and so mellow and gen-
tle, as it needeth neither plowing, nor digging, so that
after the wood is taken off, and the grasse and weeds
bee burnt and destroyed, and the common bysinesse
of fortifying bee once ended, men shall liue heere in
much ease, without such moyling and toying as is in
England: The greatest labour will bee in worming
and pruning of some plants, which children may doe
as well, and better then men.

I wish that all they that hereafter shall come hither
out

out of *England*, would consider with themselves, that these Ilands, were neuer inhabited till now, and that therefore they must of necessity labour hard at first, and be contented to endure hardnes and some want of many necessaries.

In time (by the grace of God) the store-house shall be furnished with all necessaries, for such as haue money, and they that haue not, if they be honest and industrious, shall be trusted: But now in regard that the greatest part of the people that be heere, came very rashly and carelessly, not considering whether they went, nor what they might in time haue neede of, I thinke that all that can bee brought into the store as yet will be taken vp by them: and therefore I aduise such as are to come, (to bring euery one that is able) a barrell or two of biskets for his owne eating, till hee haue cleered his ground, and haue wheat of his owne.

Also let them bring oyle, vinager, aquavite, barrell butter, pottes, kettles, frying-pannes, triuers, boules, traies, tankards or pottes to drinke in, pailles to fetch water in, and little barrells or iarres to keepe it in for their drinke. The water is very good and wholesome, such as many doe delight in.

Also let them bring tongs, fireshouels, bellows, tinder-boxes, brimstone, flint stones, and steeles, spits, dripping-pannes, candle sticks, lampes, locks, spades, shouels, pick-axes, hatchets, whetstones, sawes, hammers, pearcers, pincers, and nails, of all sorts so many as wil serue to build a house with, and leather to mend their shoes, & sparrowbills, or nailes to driue in to them, els the rocks will tear them out quickly.

Also let them bring bedding: flock-beds are better then feather beds. And for apparrell, for the summer, let them bring Canuas, or stufes; blew linon & good buckram the women doe wish for.

Also let them not forget to bring Castle sope, pins points, lases, needles, threed, thimbles, sheeres, and scissors. Also let them bring strong fishing lines, of 12. or 14. faddoms long, and som smal of whipcords and strong hookes, the biggest, and as diuers as they can, and some small hooks for breames.

And aboue all things haue a care to leaue their sins behinde them, and come hither as it were into a new world, to lead a new life; and for the comfort of their soules let them bring Bibles, and other good bookes: and pack vp all their small stoffe in barrells; the barrells wil afterwards serue them for many good vses.

Idle persons, and such as are giuen to filching, doe liue heere in great misery: so also doe all whorish women in great disgrace, hated and loathed of all honest people, which makes them weep, and sigh with teares to wish themselues in *England* againe, and for their comfort, to coole them a little, they are now & then tawed at a boates taile vp and downe the harbour: so were a couple serued together, a man and a woman that came in the ship that came in, and so haue diuers others.

Also all such as are profaners of the Sabboth, and come to the seruice of God but when they list, I see that God findeth them out, and denieth them his blessing.

All they that haue grace to serue God, are sure to prosper,

prosper and liue comfortably, because God hath said.
*Behold my seruants shall eate, and ye shall be hungry: behold
my seruants shall drinke, and ye shall be thirsty: behold my
seruants shall reioice and ye shall be ashamed: behold my ser-
uants shall sing for ioy of heart, and yee shall crie for sorrow
of heart, and shall houle for vexation of minde. Ilaï 65.*

13. 14.

*Behold the eye of the Lord is vpon them that feare him,
and vpon them that trust in his mercy, to deliuer their soules
from death, & to preserue them in famin. Psal. 33. 18. & 19*

*The Lions do lacke and suffer hunger, but they that seek
the Lord shall want no manner of thing that is good. Psal.*

34. 10.

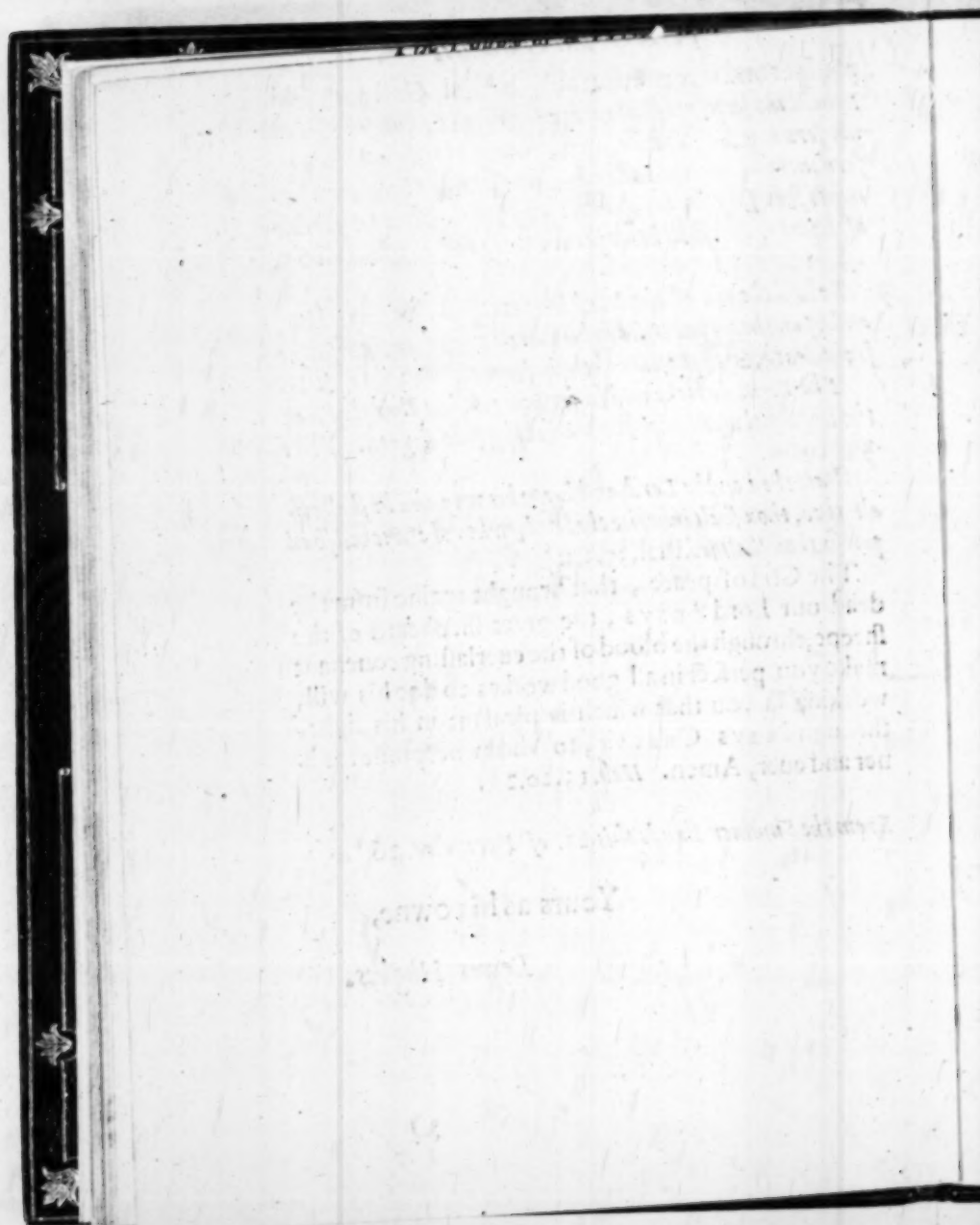
*Wait thou on the Lord, and keepe his way, and he shall ex-
alt thee, thou shalt inherite the land, when the wicked shall
perish, thou shalt see. Psal. 37. 34:*

The God of peace, that brought againe from the
dead our Lord IESVS, the great shepheard of the
sheepe, through the blood of the euerlasting couenant
make you perfect in all good workes to doe his will,
working in you that which is pleasant in his sight,
through IESVS CHRIST, to whom be praise for e-
uer and euer, Amen. *Heb. 13. 20. 21.*

From the Summer Islands this 21. of December. 1614

Yours as his owne,

Lewes Hughes.



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